

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 011124Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT RETURNS TO AEGEAN

1. SEPT 29 RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT RETURNED TO AEGEAN REGION TO CONTINUE HIS SEARCH FOR VOTES. THIS FORAY INTO JP TERRITORY UNEVENTFUL. IN TWO SPEECHES IN AYDIN AND DENIZLI ECEVIT ATTACKED JP AND DEMIREL FOR REFUSING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID JP OCCUPIED ALL ECONOMICALLY SIGNIFICANT CABINET POSITIONS AND TRIED TO TAKE CREDIT FOR INCREASES IN PRODUCER PRICES, BUT REFUSED

TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAPIDLY INCREASING COST OF LIVING.

2.ECEVIT ALSO ATTEMPTED TO USE ISPARTA INCIDENT TO COUNTER CHARGES THE RPP HARBORS ANARCHISTS, CLAIMING
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THOSE WHO ATTACHED HIM IN ISPARTA WERE TRUE ANARCHISTS

3. ACCORDING LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO ATTENDED AYDIN RALLY, CROWD SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN 10,000 REPORTED IZMIR PRESS. CROWD MAINLY CURIOUS NON-PARTISANS WHO GAVE ECEVIT POLITE BUT NOT PARTICULARLY WARM RECEPTION. ISSUE THAT SEEMED TO GENERATE MOST RESPONSE WAS ECEVIT'S CHARGE THAT JP REFUSING TO ACCEPT RIGHTFUL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISING COST OF LIVING.

4. COMMENT: WHILE DEMIREL CONTINUES HIS LOW KEY ATTACK-FREE CAMPAIGN, ECEVIT APPARENTLY TRYING TO ZERO IN ON WHAT HE HOPES IS WEAK SPOT IN JP ARMOR: DEMIREL'S ALLEGED REFUSAL TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. ACCORDING TO THIS ARGUMENT DEMIREL REFUSED TO STAND UP TO MILITARY IN 1971, HE REFUSED TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 1973, AND HE

NOW REFUSES TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIONS OF JP-CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT . A MAN WHO HAS REFUSED TO STAND UP AND ASSUME HIS RIGHTFUL RESPONSIBILITIES IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY SHOULD NOT BE ELECTED AGAIN. ECEVIT IS ALSO TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO GET RPP OUT FROM UNDER THE CLOUD OF ASSOCIATION WITH EXTREMIEST ELEMENTS, AN ASSOCIATION THAT DEFINITELY HURTS THE PARTY IN THIS TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE AREA.

SMITH

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